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LOVE, LIFE AND ME, BY MAN WITH 100 WIVES

***Accused bigamist
tells stunned court:***

★ **I've lost count
of my marriages**

★ **I was a CIA
agent for 2 years**

★ **I've worked
since I was eight**

By RICHARD JOHNSON

AN ACCUSED bigamist took the stand yesterday admitting that he traded wives almost as often as he changed his socks and that he was simply a man in love with life, women and marriage.

Giovanni Vigliotto, 53, told a stunned courtroom in Phoenix, Ariz., that he couldn't remember exactly how many women he had married and ditched since 1949.

"I don't keep score," said the smooth-talking, dark-haired romeo.

At the start of the trial, his lawyer, public defender Richard Steiner, told the jury that Vigliotto may have married as many as 100 women in 18 states and nine foreign countries.

Steiner outlined an unusual defense, saying his client was "in love with life, in love with women and in love with marriage."

But three of his wives testified that he was even more in love with their money.

He is on trial for his marriage Nov. 18, 1981, to Patricia Gardiner, a 43-year-old Mesa, Ariz., real-estate agent who claims he ditched her two weeks after their wedding with \$36,000 of her money and possessions.

Vigliotto said he was born April 3,

1929, in Sicily and never went to school.

He said he became a "trader," a world traveler, and did "contractual" work for the Central Intelligence Agency in 1953 and 1954.

He said he has used a wide variety of names in his life — so many that he can't remember all of them.

Steiner asked Vigliotto to write all the names he could remember using.

Vigliotto then wrote 44 of his aliases on a display sheet in the courtroom in addition to the name Nikolai Peruskov — which he said was his real name.

"I've been making a living since I was eight and a half — surviving. I'm a trader. Trading to me is just buying something, selling something, making a trade for something, making a living...I just don't stay anywhere that long."

The double-chinned defendant said three of his aliases were used when he worked for the CIA.

Miss Gardiner testified that after Vigliotto abandoned her, she almost jumped out the hotel window.

Sharon Clark, Ray, Ind., told jurors Vigliotto married her June 13, 1981, and abandoned her about three weeks later, taking about \$51,000 in antiques and cash. She tracked him down in Florida and had him arrested.